GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:525
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
VISIT OF U.S. DELEGATIONS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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(a) whether during the past nine months a number of American officials and politicians have visited New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether this shows a definite improvement in Indo-U.S. relations, especially in the context of cooperation in fighting international terrorism; and

(c) if so, the details of these visits and the outcome of talks held with them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India and the United States have established a broad-based and high level of bilateral interaction in pursuit of the goal that Prime Minister and President Bush outlined in Washington D.C. in November 2001 of completing the process of qualitatively transforming India-U.S. relations. These exchanges have covered the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including the shared commitment to combat international terrorism.

(c) High level U.S. visitors to India from the United States since October 2001 include Secretary of State Colin Powell; Secretary o Defence Donald Rumsfeld; Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage; Administrator of the Environment Protection Agency Christine Whitman; Deputy Secretary of Treasury Kenneth Dam; Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Richard Myers; Counter terrorism Coordinator Ambassador Francis Taylor; Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Douglas Feith; Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky; U.S. Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad; Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina Rocca; and, a number of other senior officials of the U.S. Administration.

These visits have strengthened India-U.S. relations and deepened mutual understanding and cooperation on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.